

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION:

A Request for Continued Examination has been filed concurrently herewith along with this Preliminary Amendment. In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 2, 9, 11, 22, 23 and 25 have been amended. No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 8-14, 22, 23 and 25 are pending and under consideration.

PREVIOUS OFFICE ACTION REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §132:

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 2, 9, 11, 22, 23 and 25 have been amended. It is believed that no new matter has been added herein by these amendments. Furthermore, the applicant respectfully submits that the amendments herein overcome the previous 35 U.S.C. § 132 rejection.

PREVIOUS OFFICE ACTION REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102:

Claims 1, 2, 8, 10-14, 22, 23 and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as unpatentable over Wolfe et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,282,517 (hereinafter "Wolfe"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

This rejection is respectfully traversed because Wolfe fails to teach or suggest at least three (3) of the features recited in the claims:

- (1) first price providing means for referring to said first database and transmitting the manufacturer's suggested retail price for an automobile of desired specifications selected by said customize means to the information terminal;
- (2) dealer select means for allowing the user to select the automobile dealer by operations from the information terminal after said first price providing means transmits the manufacture's suggested retail price; and
- (3) second price providing means for transmitting an estimated price of the automobile dealer selected by said dealer select means for the automobile of desired specifications . . . and transmitting the desired specifications selected by said customize means to the information terminal in a name for the automobile dealer selected by said dealer select means.

Wolfe discloses "a method and apparatus for formulating and submitting a purchase request over a computer network and making said purchase request available to a dealer immediately." Wolfe discloses a web page wherein a prospective buyer can submit a purchase request to a dealer and the buyer subsequently receives confirmation of the purchase request (see Wolfe figure 10 and accompanying text). The purchase request only includes "buyer and product information such as buyer contact information, product description, and payment information" (See Wolfe, Summary). Therefore, Wolfe discloses a web page wherein a prospective purchaser can submit a purchase request, which would include the product description, the buyer's contact information and the buyer's payment preference, i.e. whether the buyer intends to pay cash, finance, or the like. Wolfe further discloses that the purchase request is sent to a "dealer's exclusive database region in the Data Center storage medium" (see Wolfe, column 16, line 9-10). The Data Center storage medium is "partitioned into exclusive database regions. Each participating seller may be assigned an exclusive database region." Thus, Wolfe discloses a purchase request system wherein the system chooses which dealer to send the purchase request to.

Thus, Wolfe fails to disclose the aforementioned features of independent claims 1, 22, 23 and 25, particularly, Wolfe fails to teach or suggest providing a user with (a) an automobile manufacturer's suggested retail price and secondarily (b) providing the user with an estimated price for the same automobile of the same specifications from a desired dealer.

Therefore, applicants respectfully request reconsideration of independent claims 1, 22, 23 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) because the Wolfe reference fails to teach or suggest the above-identified features.

Claims 2, 8 and 10-14 depends from claim 1 and includes all the features of that claim plus additional features which are not taught or suggested by the prior art. Therefore, it is submitted that claims 2, 8 and 10-14 patentably distinguish over the prior art.

PREVIOUS OFFICE ACTION REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103:

Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable under Wolfe et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,282,517 (hereinafter "Wolfe"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As noted above, Wolfe fails to explicitly or implicitly teach or suggest the above-identified features of claim 1. Therefore, the applicants respectfully submit claim 1 contains patentable subject matter. Dependent claim 9, which contains all the features of independent claim 1 plus additional features not taught by the prior art, also is patentable and not obvious in view of Wolfe.

CONCLUSION

In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all outstanding rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot. And further, that all pending claims patentably distinguish over the prior art. Thus, there being no further outstanding objections or rejections, the application is submitted as being in condition for allowance which action is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner has any remaining issues to be addressed, it is believed that prosecution can be expedited by the Examiner contacting the undersigned attorney for a telephone interview to discuss resolution of such issues.

If there are any underpayments or overpayments of fees associated with the filing of this Amendment, please charge and/or credit the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

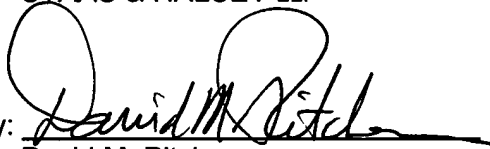
Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date:

June 9, 2005

By:



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